

REMARKS

At the time the present Final Office Action was mailed (July 13, 2007), claims 1-29 were pending in the above-captioned application, with claims 26-29 withdrawn. In this response, claims 1 and 18 have been amended, claim 17 has been canceled, and new claims 45-52 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-16, 18-29, and 45-52 are currently pending, with claims 26-29 withdrawn.

In the July 13, 2007 Office Action, claims 19-25 were allowed. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 14-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,743,982 to Beigelsen ("Beigelsen").

Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's position with regard to the Section 102 rejection on the basis of Beigelsen, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 17, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2, 5-7, 10, 12 and 13 depend from claim 1 and accordingly, the Section 102 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Claim 17 has been canceled, and accordingly, the objection to claim 17 is now moot.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14-16 and 18, which were also objected to, depend from claim 1 and accordingly, the objections to these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons, and for the additional features of these dependent claims. Of these dependent claims, claim 18 has been amended to be consistent with the amendment to claim 1.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 14-16 have been rewritten to be in independent form as corresponding new claims 45-52, respectively. Accordingly, claims 45-52 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-25, which were allowed, have not been amended.

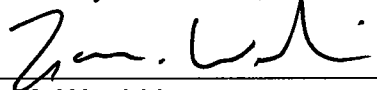
Withdrawn claims 26-29 should be considered and allowed for at least the reason that currently allowed claims are generic to claims 26-29. For example, new claim 45 (corresponding to claim 3 rewritten to be in independent form) is generic to claim 26, and claims 27-29 depend from claim 26. Accordingly, applicants request consideration and allowance of claims 26-29.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner notices any informalities or other matters that may be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 030048132US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: Oct. 15, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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